DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER

THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2017: YEAR END REPORT

Media Coverage Highlights

DPIC's 2017 Year End Report was released on December 14, 2017 and received extensive coverage in hundreds print, online, television, and radio news outlets. Coverage heavily emphasized the trend discussed in the report that executions and death sentences remained near historic lows, while public support for the death penalty fell to its lowest level in 45 years. National and international media characterized 2017 as providing further evidence of the death penalty's continuing decline. In local and regional coverage, most areas noted declines, while stories in California and Arkansas stressed a second theme, that increases in death sentences and executions were the product of local outlier practices.

Highlights of this year's coverage included stories in *The New York Times*, a widely-carried wire story from *Reuters*, and a comprehensive story from *Newsweek* with the headline "Death Penalty Cases of 2017 Featured Botched Executions, Claims of Innocence, 'Flawed' Evidence." *NBC News* and *NPR* both published online pieces that utilized DPIC's original graphics. Coverage of the report on MSNBC's "Live With Hallie Jackson" received nearly 900,000 impressions. On radio, Robert Dunham appeared on SIRIUS XM's P.O.T.U.S. network on the "Morning Briefing with Tim Farley," and on NPR's "Here and Now," a program carried by at least 45 affiliate stations.

Several editorials highlighted the themes of the report, including major end-of-year editorials in *The New York* Times and *The Washington* Post. The *Times* editorial editorial (online 12/31, print 1/1) drew on data from the report to make the case for abolition of the death penalty. It called capital punishment "savage, racially biased, arbitrary and pointless punishment that becomes rarer and more geographically isolated with every year," and said U.S. Supreme Court justices "have all the information they need right now to bring America in line with most of the rest of the world and end the death penalty for good." An editorial in *The Washington Post* (online 12/31, print 1/1) and an op-ed in *The Hill* (online 12/15) by former Virginia Attorney General Mark Earley highlighted the risks of executing innocent people and those who are mentally ill.

A selection of coverage follows: click on the headline to link to source.

TOP TIER PRINT & ONLINE MEDIA

NBC News	**Death Sentences Drop to 40-Year Low, Report Finds, Dec. 20**
The New York Times	**U.S. Had 23 Executions in 2017, Second-Lowest Number in a Quarter-Century**
Newsweek	**Death Penalty Cases of 2017 Featured Botched Executions, Claims of Innocence, 'Flawed' Evidence, Dec. 30**

Reuters	**U.S. executions edge up in 2017 but stay at decades' low: study, Dec. 14**
The Guardian	US death penalty: 23 people executed and 39 sentenced to death in 2017, Dec. 14
NPR's "The Two Way"	Use Of The Death Penalty In U.S. Near A 25-Year Low, Report Finds, Dec. 14
United Press International	Report: Death sentences in U.S. lowest in 25 years, Dec. 15
NBC News	Why Texas' 'death penalty capital of the world' stopped executing people, Dec. 16
Houston Chronicle (TX)	71 percent of scheduled executions not carried out in 2017, Dec. 20
The Guardian	Death penalty slowly disappearing from the US, end-of-year report suggests, Dec. 21
The Christian Science Monitor	How Texas' Harris County went from 'capital of capital punishment' to zero executions, Dec. 27
U.S. News & World Report	Executions, Death Sentences Up Slightly in 2017, Dec. 28
Catholic News Service *National Catholic Reporter*, *Crux*	Year in review: Counties seen as key to ongoing death penalty struggle, Dec. 29
Forbes	U.S. Executions Fell To A 25-Year Low In 2016, Jan. 3

EDITORIALS & OP-EDS

Associated Press	**Editorial Roundup: Excerpts from recent editorials, Jan. 1**
The Hill	**OP-ED by Mark Earley: Even trickling to a halt, US death penalty executions are an embarrassment, Dec 15**
The New York Times	**Capital Punishment Deserves a Quick Death, Dec. 31**
The Washington Post	**Another year in death, Dec. 31**
Sacramento Bee	Republican tax plan takes aim at California + Doug Jones' road ahead + Riverside County's death sentences, Dec. 14
Care2	The US Executed 23 People in 2017. That's 23 Too Many., Dec. 21
Huffington Post	Executions, Death Penalty Verdicts Stay Near Record-Low Levels, Dec. 23

The News & Observer, NC	As death penalty fades in NC, it's time to end it, Dec. 26
Richmond County Daily Journal, NC The Herald Sun, NC	Death penalty on death row in NC, Dec. 26
The Florida Times-Union	Sunday's Lead Letter: Reasons why death penalty must end in Florida, Dec. 29

TELEVISION & RADIO

NPR	"Here and Now," Dec. 14. Carried on at least 45 affiliates.
MSNBC	''Live With Hallie Jackson," Dec. 15
Sirius XM, POTUS	"Morning Briefing, with Tim Farley," Dec. 14
KSHB-KC (NBC) Kansas City, MO,	"Action News Today" Dec. 21
WOAI-AM (Radio), San Antonio, TX	"Drive Time," Dec. 14

SPECIALTY COVERAGE

ThinkProgress	90 percent of all executions in 2017 may have involved people who were innocent or had disabilities, Dec. 14
Sentencing Law and Policy Blog	DPIC releases 2017 year-end report noting "second lowest" executions and death sentences in a quarter century, Dec. 14
The Crime Report	Death Penalty Decline Signals 'Long-Term Change' in Capital Punishment, Dec. 14
Washington Examiner	Death penalty sentences at 2nd-lowest level in 25 years: Report, Dec. 14
ProCon.org	Death Penalty Use and Support Near Record Lows, Dec 21
The Intercept	For The First Time in Three Decades, the "Death Penalty Capital of America" Goes Without an Execution, Dec. 22
The Libertarian Republic	Only One In Four Scheduled Executions Were Carried Out In 2017, Dec. 22
The Intercept	CAN THE SUPREME COURT CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH OUR ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS DEATH PENALTY?, Dec. 24
The Root	The Top Criminal-Justice Wins of 2017, Dec. 25
Mother Jones	States Are Going to Extraordinary Lengths to Keep Death Penalty Drugs Top Secret, Dec. 26
VICE News	Death penalty states are looking for new ways to execute people. Dec. 31

LOCAL COVERAGE

Houston Chronicle	For first time in more than 30 years, no Harris County death row inmates executed, Dec. 4
The Texas Tribune	Texas leads the nation in executions, but its death row population is dropping, Dec. 14
Desert Sun, CA	Riverside County leads U.S. in death penalty sentences, but hasn't executed anyone in 39 years, Dec. 14
Arkansas Times Blog	Arkansas executed more people than all but one other state, Dec. 15
Tulsa World, OK	Oklahoma goes second straight year without an execution; no new protocol in sight, Dec. 16
Reading Eagle, PA	U.S. death penalty figures up slightly in 2017, Dec. 18
Palm Desert Patch, CA	Riverside County Has Highest Death Penalty Rate In U.S.: Report, Dec. 23
Birmingham News, AL	Alabama and capital punishment 2017: From the execution chamber to legislature, Dec. 29
Dallas Morning News	Texas sends just 4 to death row as state loses taste for eye-for-an-eye justice, Dec. 30

INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

Agency France Press	US states consider using powerful fentanyl to execute inmates, Dec. 14
Agenzia Radicale	Il lento declino della pena di morte negli USA, Dec. 14
Le Figaro (Reuters, France)	Peine de mort aux USA: exécutions en hausse, Dec. 14
Manilla Bulletin (Reuters)	US executions edge up in 2017 but stay at decades' low Dec. 14
The New Daily, Australia	The Americans' quest to find a more gentle way to … kill death-row inmates
La Tercera, Chile	Ejecuciones en EE.UU. llegan a mínimo histórico desde 1991, Dec. 25
Sky News	Sky Views: Reattempting failed executions is cruel, Dec. 30